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Dear Parents/Carers,

It was nice to see some of you at the year group “meet the teacher” meetings.

Some of the questions asked at the meetings showed concern about what the school would be providing in the event of a lockdown. We are truly hoping that there isn't one and we are trying to be as strict as we can with our bubbles to ensure that if anyone (pupil or staff) becomes infected by the virus we can limit isolation to one class/ year group only.

I thought that it might be useful to share with you some of the questions that were asked at the meetings and the school's response.

Will pick up and drop off times change because it is difficult to get to school to pick up?

Unfortunately, we cannot change timings if we are going to keep bubbles separate. As year 3 parents know we tried to have years 3 & 4 starting and finishing at the same time, but it didn't work using the front entrance so we had to change to a staggered start and finish.

We are working with the YMCA to organise access to wraparound care (that will not compromise the bubbles) as soon as possible.

Will the school close if someone tests positive?

It's highly unlikely that the whole school would close if one person tested positive, if we ensure our bubbles are kept separate. There are clear protocols from the Local Authority as to what to do in the event of someone testing positive. The first thing we would do is inform the DFE and the local public health team and they would support us through the process. This is shown on our school risk assessment that was agreed by school governors, unions and the local authority. Government guidance changes regularly and there are other agencies that also need to be contacted, but we would start with the DFE. Please see the attached flow chart with the most up to date advice.

Can children come to school if they have a cold?

If your child is so unwell with a cold that they need to go to the school office, please do not send them to school. Obviously children with vomiting, diarrhoea or a fever should not be coming into school either.

Would online lessons be delivered if there was another lockdown?

Our current plan is that we would provide online weekly home learning packs similar to the ones used during the last lockdown. Teachers will also upload regular pre-recorded positive messages and guidance on how to work through tasks set. They would not deliver live lessons as some teachers do not have the facilities to do this at home and also from a safeguarding perspective it is impossible for us to virtually manage what children may have access to in the background for any of the homes.

Teachers would also contact pupils regularly by phone.

We are trying to move homework online this term so that both teachers and pupils are familiar with this way of working.

The government has made a commitment to loan computers through schools to families without access. All pupils would need online access as staff might not be able to come into school to provide hard copies of weekly home learning packs as we did last time.

Will a survey be sent out to determine who does and doesn't have online access?

Yes, we will be doing that over the next few weeks.

Could the PSA help with providing laptops?

I don't know. Prior to lockdown there was a brief discussion about the PSA funding additional chrome books for the school, but then lockdown happened and we were unable to organise anything.

It would be very helpful for the school to have an additional set of 30 chrome books that we could loan out if we needed to.

Would the school be willing to pass on PSA messages to parents?

The school is happy to pass on the contact details for class reps so that all parents have the opportunity to be included.

What is the school doing to ensure children "catch up" with any missed learning?

Next week we shall be assessing children to ascertain what they know or don't know. We shall then be tailoring the curriculum to address the gaps. The gaps might be addressed through whole class teaching, through differentiation of tasks, through homework or through before school or after school groups. Our aim, as teachers, is to ensure that the children are working at age expected or in some cases greater depth for their year group.

As you know things are regularly changing so we have to adapt to whatever situation we find ourselves in. We are currently formalising our draft contingency plan. Once it has been finalised and scrutinised by governors it will be posted on the school website.

Will the annual flu jab still be offered to pupils?

Yes, this will be taking place on Monday 23rd November. Please note - **only** children whose parents/carers give signed permission for their child to have the vaccine will be given it.

As a staff team we are committed to the children and their learning which is why at the end of last term we opened the school to all pupils (even though this was not required of us). That was made possible by working in partnership with parents/carers as we had to have a flexible approach in order to make it happen.

None of us know what the future will bring, but whatever happens as a school we shall continue to adapt to the changes so that we can deliver a high quality education to your children.

Yours faithfully,

Bola Soneye-Thomas

Headteacher